Brotherhood---All Year Round

The Southern PATRIOT

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Professor McLaurin's Private Desk

(From the New York Herald Tribune)

The University of Oklahoma wrestling with racial segregation, believes it has nearly solved the problem. Professor G. W. McLaurin, a middle-aged Negro seeking graduate courses in educational sociology not elsewhere available in the state, is now attending classes, thanks to a United States District Court order. Oklahoma, as befits its pride and wealth, supports one of the better state Universities, but its educa-

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The South Looks To Oklahoma

By their Sugar Bowl defeat of Charlie Justice and his North Carolina Tar Heels, the University of Oklahoma football team established itself as perhaps the number one team in the South and one of the top teams in the Nation. All honor to Oklahoma for its great achievement in sports.

Oklahoma is now in a position, however, to give the South leadership in a far more important area. A major objective of a university is to give students help in finding scientific and democratic answers to troublesome questions.

The State of Oklahoma itself now faces the troublesome question of what to do about graduate and professional training for Negroes. We trust that in the solution of this problem the Regents of the University will give the students a practical demonstration of the application of reason and democracy to an important social problem.

Thus far the State has moved in timid, compromising fashion. Following a Federal Court order, it has admitted a Negro to the school of Education at the University of Oklahoma but has required him to sit in an anteroom.

The question now confronting the Regents is—shall additional students be admitted to the School of Education and to the other graduate schools or shall new facilities be developed at Langston, state supported university for Negroes.

A substantial part of faculty and student opinion appears to be firmly in favor of admitting Negroes to the university without prejudice. A committee composed of six Deans has made such a recommendation to the Administration.

A survey of faculty opinion at eleven Southern State Universities was made by the Southern Conference Educational Fund (see Nov. '48 **Southern Patriot**). Of the 98 members of the University of Oklahoma faculty that replied, 82, or 83 per cent, favored admitting Negroes to the graduate schools of the University without segrega-

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SOMETHING'S MISSING FROM THE PICTURE

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The South Looks

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tion; 14, or 15 per cent, voted for the segregated regional school plan as advocated by the Southern Governors; only 2 voted to establish new and separate graduate schools for Negroes.

In addition to the educators, there is strong sentiment among churchmen for the ending of segregation. A resolution by the Oklahoma Council of Churches called for an end to Jim Crow institutions.

But the Oklahoma Attorney General, Mac Q. Williamson, ruled that t admission of one Negro at Norman did not mean that a second applicant should be admitted.

Gov. Turner has announced that he will ask the legislature for $25,000 to expand the facilities at Langston to provide for graduate training including a school of education.

In the Dean's report mentioned above it is estimated that it would cost from ten to twelve million dollars to build separate graduate schools for Negroes. Others have said it would cost between twenty and thirty million. Any expense at all would be ruinous as the State has not yet found a way to give the white schools the increased funds they are demanding.

In addition the way of separate schools would keep the state involved in tremendously expensive court cases, for the Negroes may be counted on to continue to demand admission to all departments at the University at Norman which their taxes help to maintain.

The state must face the possibility of building new schools which no one may use and which the Supreme Court may finally declare to be "unequal" and unconstitutional. It has been brought out in the expert testimony in the Sweatt case that a degree from a new law school for Negroes with limited faculty, and few students will not carry the same community recognition and prestige, an essential part of the value of a university degree, as a degree from a state university law school, having a large faculty, hundreds of students, thousands of distinguished alumni, and a long and honored tradition.

From the standpoint of the tough-minded tax payer and business man, the religious idealist, and the practical politician, there is but one reasonable and just answer to the problem. Oklahoma should open the doors of its graduate and professional schools without prejudice to all properly qualified students. By so doing Oklahoma would earn the respect and appreciation of people of good will and good sense everywhere. We look for Oklahoma to take the lead here as she did in the Sugar Bowl.

Professor McLaurin

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tional authorities felt that some lingering obeisance to segregation was still necessary in the McLaurin case. The result is an adaption of the Jim Crow buses and street cars, of the black-curtained cubicle of the dining cars.

Professor McLaurin is in sight and sound of the same teacher, along with a classroom of white students, but he is carefully set off at a little private desk in the entranceway. There is no curtain, no sign on the wall that this space is for "colored," but there might as well be. Oklahoma's University took a seven league stride by admitting Professor McLaurin, instead of undertaking a fiction of equal but completely separate facilities, all of which is to be praised. Having yielded this far, Oklahoma might as well give another foot or two and abolish the anteroom in education. We hope to hear any day now that Professor McLaurin has been invited to come around the corner and sit with the rest of the class. All concerned will feel better for it.

* * *

Aubrey Williams, president of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, and publisher of the **Southern Farmer,** was reelected president of the Alabama Farmers Union at its annual convention. Speakers at the convention included Charles F. Brannon, secretary of Agriculture; James Patton, president of the National Farmers Union; and Gov. James Folsom of Alabama.

Oklahoma Council Of Churches Calls For Admission Of Negroes

The Executive Board of the Oklahoma Council of Churches favors the admission of all qualified Negroes to the graduate and professional schools of the University of Oklahoma. A statement, released by Mrs. Roy C. Hisel, executive secretary, and Rev. Donald Black, president of the council, said:

"Believing in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, the right of all men to equal opportunities regardless of race or color: and

"Believing that Oklahoma in its higher educational system has the unprecedented opportunity of implementing the faith by the admittance of Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher and other qualified Negroes who desire professional training offered by our state university;

"We, the members of the executive board of the Oklahoma Council of churches go on record as requesting the admittance of Mrs. Fisher, or other Negroes, deserving professional training in higher education, to the University of Oklahoma in keeping with the spirit of the recent U. S. supreme court decision and the right granted to such people by the Constitution of the United States.

"We urge all Christian people and churches to exert their influences individually and collectively to make known their desire that Oklahoma take this great social step forward."

Segregation

Out of his loneliness he cries,
And no one hears,
And though his eyes are dull and blurred,
There are no tears.

There is a fear that drains the soul
Like instant death,
A death that kills the heart but does
Not stop the breath.

Your brother stares at changing worlds
In dark distress.
Can you stand undisturbed and watch
Such loneliness?

MABEL PYLAND COOPER
Pres. Dallas Dramatic Readers Club

Southern Professors Vote To End Segregation In Graduate Schools

Responding to Supreme Court decisions, Southern States are re-examining their policies concerning graduate and professional training for Negroes. The University Law Schools of Maryland and Delaware and the University of Arkansas Medical School have admitted Negroes without segregation; The University of Texas has established a new law school for Negroes, thus far with no students; the University of Arkansas Law School and the University of Oklahoma School of Education have admitted Negroes but with segregation. Southern Governors are backing a plan for regional segregated schools for Negroes.

The Southern Conference Educational Fund decided to find out which of these plans was most acceptable to the faculties of Southern State universities. A ballot was mailed to the entire faculty of 11 Southern State universities. Of the 371 replies received, 255, or 69 per cent favored admitting Negroes to white institutions where such courses were not otherwise available; 105, or 28 per cent favored the Southern Governors' plan for segregated, regional schools for Negroes; and 11, or 3 percent favored other plans.

In the November, 1948, Southern Patriot giving a complete summary of the poll, we printed some of the comment from faculty members at the Universities of Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi. We print below additional comment from other States.

Plan A, admit Negroes, no segregation; Plan B, admit Negroes but with segregation; Plan C, new and separate schools for Negroes; Plan D, regional, segregated schools.

OKLAHOMA

COMMENTS FAVORING PLAN A

"I actually favor **the complete abolition of segregation everywhere:** at all school levels, in public places—theaters, restaurants, etc., and the elimination of all references to it in the laws. Only that way will real democratic equality be achieved."

"I do not believe in segregation, either in graduate or undergraduate courses of study. I definitely do **not believe** in the Southern Governors' Plan—that's a huge farce if ever I saw one!"

"This would be the beginning of a gradual process of upgrading Negro Education. It would **work** in Oklahoma."

"B is expensive (and, in practice, ridiculous). C is expensive (and, so far, unacceptable to Negroes). D would tend to crystallize the segregation pattern."

"Segregation of races is undemocratic and violates the spirit of the Constitution."

COMMENTS FAVORING PLAN D

"The cost of a separate school for negroes (sic) in Oklahoma would be too great on a per student basis."

"It will offer greater opportunities without the complications that come from social discrimination, and unequal intellectual competition; and will give opportunity for special studies that can provide special types of instruction as they may be needed. They are the best educational devices and should be developed entirely apart from political activities. Of course higher education for negroes (sic) should be maintained on an efficient plane and with full equipment and competent staff."

SOUTH CAROLINA

COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF PLAN A

"It is the fairest, most sensible. But I prefer no distinctions at all — no separate schools of any kind."

"Segregation is inconsistent with the **public** character of a public institution. Further, it inevitably has evil results such as discrimination and the maintenance of bad attitudes on the part of **all** concerned."

COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF PLAN D

"It should offer negroes (sic) a larger opportunity; they are excluded from nothern institutions in greater or less degree, sometimes on real or pretended failure to meet standards. For the South it would, or should, obviate a dangerous friction."

TENNESSEE

COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF PLAN A

"It is the most economical, most sensible, and morally legitimate plan."

"Most of us forsee that this will happen ultimately anyway."

COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF PLAN D

"It is a progressive forward step and socially practicable in the South. I would vote differently in another region of the country. You cannot legislate the extinction of undesirable social and emotional responses of a whole popultaion. Education, which is slower but surer, is better than legislation and must precede it."

TEXAS

COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF PLAN A

"There should, of course, be no segregation of any sort in any schools, but for holding such a democratic and christian point of view I dare not sign this."

"Segregation is unconstitutional. Equal educational privileges cannot be realized unless segregation is outlawed."

"Closest to the complete equality which in my opinion is the only satisfactory solution from the Christian, Constitutional and practical points of view."

COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF PLAN D

"This is a way by which segregation can be maintained and first class schools can economically be provided for a limited demand by negroes (sic)."

"Isn't the reason obvious enough?"

VIRGINIA

COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF PLAN A

"It is the only way that discrimination can be avoided."

"Because I'm a biologist and believe in the brotherhood of man.

"It is the fairest and most adequate solution. Plan D may be more acceptable to the South at the present time, but does not guarantee equal opportunity or quality of instruction and eventually would prove inadequate."

"This must be the final solution — perhaps now is the time to try it rather than D the only other one that makes any progress at all."

"In view of Supreme Court decisions, no other plan can long be effective, and no other plan quite satisfies fundamental American civil rights requirements. Besides, unsegrated education does not necessarily imply social equality."

"The borders of education and research should not be bound by considerations of color."

COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF PLAN D

"I thoroughly believe in the segregation of the races. By the activities of a lot of new deal crackpot vote seekers ,as well as others of the same ilk bearing foreign names, race relations in the South are on the verge of being set back a generation. Negro advancement in my opinion, cannot be achieved in such an atmosphere as has recently been created by such meddlesome outsiders."